



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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SUBJECT: Commodore/MOS Superfund Site
Oversight Trip Report

NOV 16 1989

FROM: Michael Towle, RPM *mt*
SE Penna. Remedial 3HW21

TO: File

On Novemebr 2, 1989 Bruce Beach from Dynamac Corporation and I completed an RI/FS oversight trip to the Commodore facility in Audubon Pennsylvania. The purpose of the visit was to observe the progress and procedures of the soil gas survey. Dynamac is EPA's oversight contractor.

Weston had completed more than half of the soil gas survey upon arrival. PADER had visited the site on October 31, 1989. Weston personnel had staked the field to the west of the Commodore facility and were proceeding to collect soil gas samples. Samples were collected in a glass vial after 5 to 10 minutes of purging. Purge time was determined by the rate of flow. Initially Weston determined a purge time/concentration relationship for one location. This relationship was applied to subsequent locations. Soil gas samples were carried to an on-site laboratory for analysis by GC. Sample equipment was to be decontaminated (not observed) prior to reuse. To date, few samples detected elevated concentrations of VOC.

AR300650

Noted Deviation from RISOP:

1. RISOP indicates soil gas survey will begin at location of underground tank to southeast of facility and proceed on 50-foot grid spacings in all directions. Soil gas survey could be terminated after 3 successive locations with no detection of VOC. After reviewing preliminary results, it appears that Weston has completed large areas of "ND", no detection of VOC, with more than 3 successive locations of no VOC detection.

The EPA RPM believes this will not affect the interpretation of results and will not affect the selection of remedy for this site.

Possible Deviation from RISOP

2. The RISOP indicates that 3 to 5 volumes will be purged from each hole. EPA observed collection of sample from 3 locations. The sampler determined the time for sample collection based upon total purge time. Weston indicated that they were able to determine when a sample could be collected from a particular location because they knew when the concentration of VOC in the discharge had equilibrated. Weston initially determined a purge time/concentration relationship, at one location, and applied this relationship to all remaining locations. Based upon this purge time/concentration relationship, each location was purged between 5 and 10 minutes depending upon flow rate.

The EPA RPM believes that 5 to 10 minutes was probably adequate purge time for each location. In light of the fact that most locations did not contain elevated VOC, this issue may not affect the interpretation of results.

The EPA RPM returned to the site on November 7, 1989 to meet with Weston's Project Manager, Steve Jakatt. All results were plotted on a soil survey grid map. Elevated TCE or VOC readings were detected at 3 major locations. The locations where TCE was detected are: 1) behind Commodore facility 2) in buried pipeline, and 3) parking lot of building to northeast of Commodore. Several samples could not be collected due to excessive moisture or free water. Based upon the large areas in which no VOCs were detected, EPA and Weston agreed to terminate the soil gas survey before all locations were completed.

The EPA RPM believes that the early termination of the soil gas survey will not affect the selection of remedy for the site. The soil gas survey appears to have been slightly ~~unsuccessful~~ ^{successful}. Only small pockets of contamination were detected, yet ground water in the entire area is contaminated by TCE. 3 possible soil source areas were located.